

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 USIE-00 AID-05 EB-07 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07

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FODAG

FOR PLACKE FROM SERVICE.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, UNWFC, EAID, OCON

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL PREP MEETING -- FOOD AID PAPER

1. FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE INTENDED SUPPLEMENT AND UPDATE DRAFT POSITION PAPER THIS TOPIC PREPARED IN EB/OF. DOCUMENT WFC/21 HAS BEEN POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT. COMMENTS FOLLOW TOPICLA ORDERING THAT PAPER.

2. FOOD AID TARGET. AS EXPLAINED CFA, ANTICIPATED US GRAINS FOOD AID FOR 1975/76 CAN BE SHOWN EITHER AS 7 MILLION TONS (FOR 15 MONTHS) OR 6 MILLION TONS (FOR 12 MONTHS), WITH APPROPRIATE FOOT NOTE. FAO TABLES NOW SHOW 6.2 MILLION TONS FOR 15 MONTHS.

3. FORWARD PLANNING FO FOOD AID. STATEMENT THAT FAC NOW EXTENDED TO 1978 NOT TECHNICALLY CORRECT. JUNE 18 IS DATE FOR DEPOSIT OF RATIFICATIONS, APPLICATIONS, ETC. ASSUMING FAC EXTENDED ALL ITS SIGNATORIES ARE COMMITTED TO STIPULATED AMOUNTS THROUGH 1977/78 -- THUS JOINING CANADA AND SWEDEN (ALSO MEMBERS OF FAC) IN
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IMPLEMENTATION THIS RECOMMENDATION, IN US CASE, OF COURSE,

FAC OBLIGATION IS SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW WHAT WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO DO. WHILE US NOT ABLE MAKE COMMITMENTS OVERALL PROGRAM SIZE BEYOND CURRENT YEAR, AND THESE SUBJECT TO USUAL CAVEATS, USDEL MAY WANT TO NOTE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT LAST YEAR REGARDING 4 MILLION TONS AS WELL AS FACT US ESTABLISHES AND MAKES PUBLIC FOOD AID INTENTIONS UNDER NEW BUDGET PROCEDURES APPROXIMATELY 8 MONTHS PRIOR TO EACH FISCAL YEAR.

4. CHANNELING FOOD AID THROUGH WFP. YOU HAVE US POSITION AS STATED AT CFA.

5. CASH CONTRIBUTIONS. AT CFA USDEL REGRETTED LACK OF NEW CASH DONORS WITH NOTABLE EXCEPTION SAUDI ARABIA. IN DISCUSSION 500,000 TON EMERGENCY RESERVE CANADA ASKED WHETHER WFP SECRETARIAT HAD EXPLICITLY REQUESTED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM NEWLY RICH AND CENTRAL PLAN COUNTRIES, AS IT DID WITH RESPECT TRADITIONAL DONORS. ANSWER WAS NEGATIVE BUT NOT PRECLUSIVE. WITH RESPECT NEW CASH CONTRIBUTIONS TO WFP, INDIAN DEL QUESTIONED WHETHER NEWLY RICH WERE AS ABLE AS TRADITIONAL DONORS TO PROVIDE INCREASED AMOUNTS OF COMMODITIES/FUNDING FOR FOOD AID.

6. FOOD AID TARGETS FOR OTHER COMMODITIES. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FAVORED ESTABLISHING TARGETS FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS, OILS AND FATS, AND FISH. DONOR COUNTRIES GENERALLY HESITANT, BUT ONLY US AND JAPAN NEGATIVE. NO DECISION TAKEN EXCEPT FURTHER STUDY AND RECONSIDERATION AT FALL MEETING CFA. SEE SEPTEL.

7. INTERNATIONAL RESERVE FOR EMERGENCIES. DEBATE NOT YET CONCLUDED. SEPTEL TO FOLLOW.

8. AN IMPROVED POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR FOOD AID. IMPLICATIONS OF THIS SECTION POTENTIALLY OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE, BUT SUPERFICIALLY IT DOES NOT GIVE US PROBLEMS. WE CAN SUPPORT, WITH LITTLE IF ANY CHANGE, THE WORDING OF OBJECTIVES IN PARA 22 AND THE SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE CFA ACTION IN PARA 29. AT HEART OF DEBATE IS EXTENT TO WHICH US AND OTHER MAJOR DONORS ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT MULTILATERAL DECISION-INVOLVEMENT, IF NOT DECISION-MAKING, ON FOOD AID MATTERS. RELATED ISSUES ARE THE RELATIONSHIP OF FOOD AID TO WORLD FOOD SECURITY AND THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF DONOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBLIGATIONS, IF IN FACT THEY ARE TO BE VIEWED AS SUCH.

9. CFA DEBATE ON ITEM 6(A) -- IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD AID RECOMMENDATIONS IN WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTION 18 -- THROW SOME LIGHT ON ALIGNMENTS AND POSITIONS THIS ISSUE IN COUNCIL. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, LED BY INDIA, PAKISTAN, GUINEA AND INDONESIA, WITH SOME SUPPORT FROM SWEDEN, TOOK VIEW THAT WFC RECOMMENDATIONS CONSTITUTE BINDING IMPERATIVES AND THAT IT NOT SUFFICIENT FOR CFA

TO SIMPLY RECORD AND REPORT PROGRESS. IT MUST TAKE LEAD IN
IMPROVING PERFORMANCE BY DONORS. BOTH PAKISTAN AND INDIA SUGGESTED
THAT PRESENT GRAINS TARGET INADEQUATE AND THAT CFA SHOULD STUDY
POSSIBLE UPWARD REVISION. BOTH CALLED FOR EVENTUAL RENEGOTIATION
OF FOOD AID CONVENTION TO COVER GRAINS TARGET. IN PUBLIC SESSIONS
ONLY US AMONG DONORS TOOK EXPLICIT EXCEPTION TO SOME ELEMENTS OF
FOOD CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS BUT THERE WAS SUBSTANTIALLY WIDER
BEHIND THE SCENES SUPPORT FROM THE EEC COUNTRIES, CANADA AND JAPAN.
SUPPORT FOR US POSITIONS BECAME MORE OVERT WITH RESPECT TO NEW
SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON EMERGENCY RESERVE AND TARGETS FOR H
OTHER COMMODITIES.VOLPE

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